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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,735	10/19/2001	Shingo Uchihashi	CQ10196	6166

23493 7590 02/26/2007
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EXAMINER

RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/26/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/981,735

Applicant(s)

UCHIHASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Note: final rejection dated 10-24-2006 is withdrawn in view of applicants arguments in response to the final rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 8-11, 15, 16, 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawahara (JP404301976) in view of and Inoue (JP08-181958) and Maeng (US PAT: 5,959,667)

Regarding claim 1, Kawahara discloses a computer assisted meeting capture system comprising: meeting capture controller (7, fig. 1), at least one camera (2, fig. 1) having plurality of angles, a sensor (4a-4g/5a-5g, fig. 1) to determine sensed activity information, a storage device (8, fig. 1) that stores object position information (for stores position of the microphone) and rule information (for example camera rotation angle to track a speaker, see abstract).

Kawahara differs from claim 1 in that he does not teach: plurality of cameras and meeting capture controller displays, for selection, at least one of a suggested camera selection and suggested camera angle selection based on the sensed activity information, the stored object information and stored rule information.

However, Maeng discloses voice activated camera preset selection system and method of operation which teaches plurality of cameras (19, fig. 1) to capture the images (col. 3, line 66 – col. 4, line 15); and Inoue discloses communication conference system, communication terminal equipment and camera operation device which teaches: meeting capture controller displays, for selection, at least one of a suggested camera selection and suggested camera angle selection (Drawing 5) based on stored rule information (abstract; paragraphs: 0028; 0031-0035).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Kawahara's system to provide for the following: plurality of cameras as this arrangement would facilitate to capture images in a conference using plurality of cameras as taught by Maeng; and meeting capture controller displays, for selection, at least one of a suggested camera selection and suggested camera angle selection based on the sensed activity information, the stored object information and stored rule information as this arrangement would facilitate user control to effect desired image capture conditions as taught by Inoue.

Regarding claims 2-4, Kawahara further teaches the following: meeting capture controller (7, fig. 1) automatically selects at least one of suggested camera and camera angle for recording the sensed activity information, sensed activity information comprises at least one of sound information, movement information, and presence information, sound information is obtained from microphones (4a-4g, fig. 1, abstract).

Claim 8 is rejected on the same basis as claim 1.

Claims 9-11 are rejected on the same basis as claims 2-4.

Claims 15-16 are rejected on the same basis as claim 1.

Kawahara differs from claim 19 in that he does not specifically teach the following: an input device, wherein at least one of suggested camera selection and suggested camera angle selection is manually selected by a user using the input device.

However, Inoue teaches the following: an input device, wherein at least one of suggested camera selection and suggested camera angle selection is manually selected by a user using the input device (abstract; paragraphs: 0028; 0031-0035; Drawing 5).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Kawahara's system for the following: an input device, wherein at least one of suggested camera selection and suggested camera angle selection is manually selected by a user using the input device as this arrangement would provide one of the methods, among many possible methods, to control camera to obtain desired video as taught by Inoue.

Claim 20 is rejected on the same basis as claim 19.

3. Claims 5-6, 12-13, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawahara in view of and Inoue and Maeng as applied to claims 1, 18, 17 above, and further in view of Kikuchi et al. (JP363142779A, hereinafter Kikuchi).

Regarding claim 17, the combination discloses a method of computer assisted meeting capture comprising: providing at least one of camera a having plurality of angels and plurality of cameras, displaying for selection at least one of suggested

camera selection and suggested camera angle selection based on determined sensed activity information, stored object position information and stored rule information as explained in rejection of claim 1.

The combination differs from claims 5-6, 12-13, 17 in that although it discloses use of microphone to detect the activity (see abstract of Kawahara), it does not teach the following: determining activity information from a sensor comprising sensing movement information from at least one of passive infra-red detectors, microwave detectors.

However, Kikuchi teaches the following: determining activity information from a sensor comprising sensing movement information from at least one of passive infra-red detectors, microwave detectors (see abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: determining activity information from a sensor comprising sensing movement information from at least one of passive infra-red detectors, microwave detectors as this arrangement would provide one of the methods, among many possible methods, to control camera to obtain desired video as taught by Kikuchi.

4. Claims 7, 14, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawahara in view of and Inoue and Maeng as applied to claims 1, 8, 18 above, and further in view of Kishimoto (JP410282564A).

Regarding claim 18, the combination discloses a computer assisted meeting capture system comprising: a meeting capture controller, at least one camera having a

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plurality of angles and a plurality of cameras, a sensor to determine sensed activity information, stored object position information, stored rule information wherein meeting capture controller displays, for selection, at least one of suggested camera and suggested camera angle selection based on sensed activity information, stored object position information and stored rule information, wherein the sensor information comprises at least one of sound information, movement information and presence information as explained in rejection of claims 1-4.

The combination differs from claims 7, 14, 18 in that he does not teach the following: stored object location information is obtained automatically by at least one of a geo-positioning system signal and mobile locator service signal.

However, Kishimoto discloses camera for recording photographing position which teaches the following: stored object location information is obtained automatically by at least one of a geo-positioning system signal and mobile locator service signal (fig. 1, see abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: stored object location information is obtained automatically by at least one of a geo-positioning system signal and mobile locator service signal as this arrangement would facilitate associating positional information with respect to stored object as taught by Kishimoto.

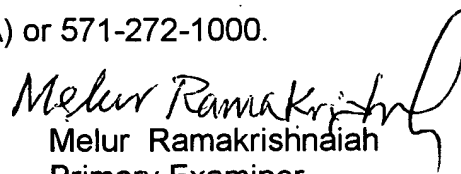
Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Melur Ramakrishnaiah
Primary Examiner
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